

BEESTON

Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December 31, 1895.

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FRANK ROTHERA, M.D., &c.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

BEESTON,

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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1895.

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BEESTON, NOTTS.

JANUARY 31ST, 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the district, together with the statistics of mortality and sickness during the year 1895.

Before doing so I would call your attention to the phenomenally cold weather we experienced during January and February, and to the great heat and drought during the latter part of June and July, factors which directly accounted for much of the illness and many of the deaths occurring during those months.

The very plentiful supply of fruit during the autumn had also much to do with the prevalence of diarrhoea during that time.

I estimate the population on August 1st, 1895, to have been 8,250. During the year there have been:—

*Population.*

<i>Births</i>	245	births	and	113	deaths	as	against
<i>and</i>	244	"	"	100	"	"	in 1894
<i>Deaths.</i>	221	"	"	108	"	"	1893
	224	"	"	106	"	"	1892

This gives a :—

<i>Birth-rate</i>	Birth-rate of		and a death-rate of	
<i>and</i>	29.69		13.69	per 1,000 per annum for 1895
<i>Death-rate.</i>	30.5		12.5	" " " " " 1894
	29.1		14.2	" " " " " 1893

These figures not only show a remarkable similarity for the years named, but considering also the fact that our death-rate is well within the average of that of the 13 Urban Sanitary Districts of the county for 1894 which was 15.43, they speak well for the sanitation and general salubrity of the district. The fact, too, that the birth-rate has been more than double the death-rate in each year is an interesting and satisfactory feature.

The deaths are classed under the following heads :—

<i>Classification of Deaths.</i>	1895	1894	1893
Small-pox .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	9	1
Scarlatina .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	1	1	1
Croup .....	1	0	0
Typhus Fever .....	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever .....	0	1	0
Continued Fever .....	0	1	1
Puerperal Fever .....	0	2	0
Erysipelas .....	0	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	7
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	14	4	10
Rheumatic Fever ..	0	0	0
Pnthisis .....	12	14	11
Bronchitis, Pleurisy & Pneumonia . . . .	18	13	16
Heart Disease ..	8	12	13
Injuries .. .	1	0	0
All other Diseases ...	58	42	48

*Ages at which deaths occurred.*

Tabulated as follows :—		1895	1894	1893
Under 1 year .....		41	20	39
1 year and under 5 years	...	14	17	11
5 " " 15 " ..	...	6	7	4
15 " " 25 " ..	...	5	2	5
25 " " 65 " ..	...	30	33	25
65 " and upwards	...	17	21	24
		<hr/> 113	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 108

*Causes of  
Deaths in  
Infants.*

The worst feature in the above table is the high infant mortality, viz., 41, corresponding to an annual mortality of 167 per 100 births. For this reason I have thought it desirable to classify those deaths occurring in children under 1 year as follows:—

Premature Births ....	10
Bronchitis and Pneumonia .....	4
Debility from Birth ...	3
Convulsions .....	6
Constitutional Syphilis .....	1
General Tuberculosis .....	2
Diarrhœa .....	11
Suppression of Urine .....	1
Haemophilia .....	1
Rickets.....	1
Tubercular Meningitis .....	1
	<hr/>
	41

After deducting the 10 deaths from premature birth the proportion is not so alarming as may seem at first sight. Still, in spite of this, the infant mortality is higher than should be the case, and may, in part be attributed to the very erroneous views parents have with regard to diet. The great majority of the cases of diarrhœa and convulsions were brought on by the improper use of farinaceous foods in infants a few weeks old—a custom which I believe is largely the result of ignorance rather than inability to buy milk. In the classification of diseases table it is satisfactory to note that with the exception of 14 deaths from diarrhœa there have only been two deaths from zymotic diseases, viz : one each from diphtheria and croup. The zymotic death-rate is 1·93 per 1,000 per annum as against 2·0 in 1894, and 2·63 in 1893.

*Zymotic  
Death-rate.*

Thirty-four cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, viz t—

*Notification  
of  
Infectious  
Diseases.*

	1895	1894	1893
Scarlatina .....	17	3	3
Diphtheria .....	4	10	15
Croup ..	2	1	1
Typhoid Fever ..	7	9	1
Continued Fever ...	0	1	0
Erysipelas .....	4	2	11
Puerperal Fever.....	0	4	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34	30	31



*Scarlet  
Fever.*

The cases of scarlet-fever mostly occurred towards the end of the year and were, with two exceptions, of a very mild type. In fact, so mild was it in one case that the disease was not recognised by the parents and the child went to the Board School during the disquimating stage. Four of the subsequent cases were, in my opinion, directly attributable to this child. Six of the cases occurred in three houses — two in each — the second case in each instance being contracted from the first.

*Typhoid  
Fever.*

The typhoid-fever cases were also of a mild description. Two of the cases were contracted in Nottingham, and in two others there were sanitary defects in the patients' houses which might have been responsible for it — defects which have since been rectified. The remaining three cases could not be satisfactorily accounted for.

*Diphtheria*

The number of cases of diphtheria shows, I am glad to say, a marked decline over the previous two years, viz. 4 against 10 in 1894, and 15 in 1893. In one case occurring in a yard in Windsor street the paving bricks were found to be loose allowing water and sink-washings to collect under them giving off very offensive smells. Seeing that great complaints had been made by several persons living in the yard and the landlord had refused to have the work done to the satisfaction of the authorities your Sanitary Committee thought it necessary to take urgent steps, and, I am glad to say, the matter has since been attended to. One of the other cases was contracted by the Nurse engaged in looking after a child suffering from the same disease. The origin of the remaining two cases could not be traced.

*Erysipelas.*

Three of the four cases of erysipelas could not be accounted for. The fourth arose in the same house as one of the cases of typhoid fever and due to grave sanitary defects since remedied.

During the year I have had my attention directed to two nuisances which I think might and should be mitigated. The first was with regard to a very objectionable smell arising from the manholes below the station in the Meadow Road district. On investigation this turned out to be due to the washings out of the empty barrels at the Beeston Brewery, the resulting fluid having a sour musty kind of odour. This might be remedied by collecting these washings in a tank and running them off at night. It would be further be desirable to erect a ventilating



shaft up the end of Mr. Clark's malt rooms and closing the two manholes situated close to the crossing by the railway-gates. Permission has been asked for this, but some hitch has arisen in the negotiations. The other nuisance is with regard to the cellars excavated for some proposed buildings situated between City Road and Regent Street. These buildings have never been erected and the excavation has become a receptacle for all kinds of rubbish and rain-water which, in hot weather, gives off offensive smells and is prejudicial to the health of the surrounding inhabitants.

In company with the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Walker) I have on two occasions inspected all the bakehouses, slaughter-houses, piggeries, and cowsheds, and am glad to report that with very few exceptions the owners realise the necessity for cleanliness in their surroundings.

I am glad to be able to congratulate the Council on the fact that Dagmar and Thyra Groves have at last been properly installed and made. This is a great improvement both from a hygienic and æsthetic point of view.

For particulars of the visits made in consequence of notification of disease or private complaints, and of other work done during the year I may be allowed to refer you to my monthly reports and to the Medical Officer's Journal.

Since my appointment as Medical Officer my attention has been frequently called to the great difficulty that arises in disinfecting bedding, woollen garments, &c. The Nottingham Health Department to whom I have applied on more than one occasion seem loth to undertake the work, and even if they be willing there is the question of carriage for of course carriers' carts are unavailable, and to hire a cart specially is a more expensive business than poor patients can afford. As to the cost of such an apparatus I am not in a position to give your Committee any particulars, but I have no doubt one of the Nottingham firms who make a speciality of them would do so on application.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you for the kind attention you have always paid to my reports and suggestions.

Your obedient servant,

FRANK ROTHERA,

Medical Officer of Health.

## APPENDIX.

The following Meteorological Observations for the year 1895, have kindly been supplied to me by Geo. Fellows, Esq., of Beeston Fields, but too late for incorporation in my annual Report. — F.R.

	Mean Temperre.	Highest	Lowest	Total fall	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No of days on which rain fell
January	31·3	42·8	11·2	4·09	·95	23
February	28·8	44·9	0	·16	·07	3
March	41·6	63·1	24·9	1·49	·32	13
April	46·9	62·7	28·3	1·98	·44	13
May	54·2	80·8	34·9	·55	·36	5
June	58·5	81·7	35·	·89	·22	10
July	60·0	78·1	44·	3·40	1·12	17
August	60·7	77·1	41·3	2·27	·53	15
September	60·7	82·2	36·1	·92	·48	6
October	45·7	73·9	21·6	2·48	·81	17
November	45·2	62·0	30·2	2·87	·47	20
December	37·7	53·4	23·8	2·21	·35	15
Mean of year.	47·6			23·31		157

206 feet above Mean Sea Level.  
Readings taken at 9 a m. daily.



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